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| Welcome to 8th Grade Social Studies!  Overview and Syllabus  Mrs. Lock  (262) 238-4732  [mlock@mtsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:mlock@mtsd.k12.wi.us)   |  | | --- | | Course Overviewhttp://mtsd.buildyourowncurriculum.com/Images/shim.gif | | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| In eighth grade, students study world geography, historical events and influences from 1000-1700 CE and current events.  Students develop an understanding of the earth's physical features and interrelationships.  Content of the course addresses physical geography and cultural, economic, social and political developments.  The class also provides instruction in the use of maps, charts, graphs, communication, critical thinking and group process skills.  Current events is integrated each week to include newsletters, news games, and daily discussion of world events.  The textbook, **Exploring Our World: People, Places, and Cultures,** is one source of information for students.  Up-to-date resources and activities are provided for students as a supplement to the print materials available.  Students will be reading rigorous, challenging informational text and will frequently be writing paragraphs and essays summarizing,  forming arguments, and citing evidence to support thesis statements.  Most work must be wordprocessed.  **Supplies needed:** textbook, folder, notebook, colored pencils, fine line markers  Please note that the following timeline is approximate and is subject to change based on students’ needs. | |
| **Unit 1 Description: Topics in Economic Disparity & Human Geography (5 weeks)** | |
| The disparity among developed, developing and newly industrialized nations is widening.  The bottom billion people economically are steadily falling further behind the population whose lives are improving. Why?  Students will grapple with the disparities that exist in our world and begin to understand the theories as to why this is occurring. Students will analyze disparity through economic indicators such as GDP, literacy, life expectancy, etc.  Current data will be accessed through credible online sources. | |

**Unit 2: Physical Geography (4 weeks)**

Students will understand and be able to apply the five themes of geography. Students will understand how factors beyond our control such as internal and external forces, climate, and biomes shift and shape our lives. Students will be pretested on their knowledge of continents, countries, cities and physical features to launch our continuous study of geography

throughout the school year.

**Units 3-7: Regional Studies**

Each unit includes the study of the physical geography of the region, the history and cultures of the region, and significant issues the region is facing currently.

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| [East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia](javascript:__doPostBack('grdUnits$ctl00$ctl08$LinkButton1','')) | 5 Weeks |
| [Southwest Asia and Northern Africa](javascript:__doPostBack('grdUnits$ctl00$ctl10$LinkButton1','')) | 5 Weeks |
| [Africa South of the Sahara](javascript:__doPostBack('grdUnits$ctl00$ctl12$LinkButton1','')) | 5 Weeks |
| [Europe and Northern Eurasia](javascript:__doPostBack('grdUnits$ctl00$ctl14$LinkButton1','')) | 5 Weeks |
| [Middle and South America](javascript:__doPostBack('grdUnits$ctl00$ctl16$LinkButton1','')) | 5 Weeks |

**8th Grade Heritage Project: date to be announced**

Based on an interview of a family member, each student will produce a bound copy of a keepsake of his/her life

and culture. The published piece will include a 2 page narrative based on information gleaned from the interview, a brief family tree, artifacts (copies of important family documents/photos) with captions and a treasured family recipe. This recipe will be prepared for an 8th grade Heritage Food Fest, one of the highlights of the year.

A more detailed description of this course, along with benchmarks and student learning targets, is available online.

Go to mtsd.k12.wi.us. Then to the orange cube entitled “Resources and Information”. Next to “For MTSD Staff”.

Scroll down to “Build Your Own Curriculum – Public.” Finally, click on “Social Studies – Grade 8”.